

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Legislation extends deadlines for federal unemployment extension benefits for two months

Benefits for 1.1 million Californians will continue uninterrupted

SACRAMENTO – Congress and President Obama have reauthorized the federal extensions of unemployment benefits for two months, sparing an estimated 1.1 million unemployed Californians from losing extension benefits after the New Year.

Out of the more than a million people currently certifying for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, approximately 100,000 long-term unemployed on the last extension known as the FED-ED here in California had faced an immediate cut-off of benefits in early January. More claimants would have run out of benefits each week thereafter if Washington had not acted. It all depended on where each individual was in the midst of their UI claim.

“Today’s agreement in Washington will brighten the holiday season for more than 1 million Californians and their families,” said Pam Harris, Director of the California Employment Development Department (EDD). “Those who are unemployed and qualify can now be confident that they will continue to receive extended benefits while they pursue employment in the New Year.”

The stop-gap measure takes UI claimants through the holidays and into the New Year with no interruptions of extension benefits.

This latest legislation does not include any additional weeks of benefits, it simply extends the filing deadlines for starting any new tier of the four tiers of federal extension benefits available. It also extends the filing and payment dates for those who are currently collecting benefits on the separate extension known as the FED-ED here in California. The maximum total weeks of benefits claimants may qualify for remains up to 99 weeks. Without this latest legislation, maximum unemployment benefits would have returned to up to 26 weeks of regular state UI benefits, which is the maximum without extensions.

(more)

Here are the UI benefits currently available for qualified applicants and the revised filing deadlines:

CURRENT UI EXTENDED BENEFIT DURATION & CLAIM DEADLINES

UI Benefits Provided During This Recession		
UI Claims	Maximum Weeks of Benefits Provided	Deadline for Starting This Type of UI Claim
Regular UI Claim	Up to 26 weeks of benefits	Once someone becomes unemployed
1st Tier of Federal Extension	Up to 20 weeks of benefits	February 26, 2012
2nd Tier of Federal Extension	Up to 14 weeks of benefits	March 4, 2012
3rd Tier of Federal Extension	Up to 13 weeks of benefits	March 4, 2012
4th Tier of Federal Extension	Up to 6 weeks of benefits	March 4, 2012
Separate FED-ED Extension	Up to 20 weeks of benefits	March 4, 2012
POTENTIAL TOTAL MAXIMUM BENEFITS	Up to 99 weeks of UI benefits	

As of December 19, 2011, approximately 585,000 unemployed in California had exhausted all available UI benefits, including regular UI and federal extension benefits. These individuals may be eligible for assistance to meet basic needs as well as other services such as health care, counseling, and employment and training assistance. For more information about help, read the "Assistance for Unemployed California Residents" flyer and the "Job Dislocation Brochure" on EDD's website at:

www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Federal_Unemployment_Insurance_Extensions.htm.

EDD is continuing to follow the developments in Congress closely and is committed to ensuring our UI customers are aware of any further developments related to federal extension benefits. For more information on federal extension and regular state unemployment benefits, along with other EDD programs and services, we encourage our customers to check for updates on our website at www.edd.ca.gov and on our EDD Facebook and Twitter pages.

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